

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Application of: Chaney, Jeremy P.

Group Art Unit: 2166

Application No.: 09/575,403

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For: SYSTEM AND METHOD OF  
ORGANIZING AND EDITING  
METADATA

APPELLANTS' BRIEF

## TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

This communication is submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated November 7, 2006, the Advisory Action dated June 20, 2007 and the Notice of Appeal filed on May 16, 2008. This brief pertains to the captioned patent application identified above. Appellants Chaney et al. previously filed a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review on May 16, 2008. This Brief is being filed under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 41.37. The Filing Fee corresponding to this Appeal Brief, as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 41.20(b)(2), accompanies this communication.

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## I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The rights of the inventors in this application have been assigned to RealNetworks, Inc. of Seattle, Washington by way of assignment from Jeremy P. Chaney, Joshua Ethan Elman, and Elizabeth Carter Grigg ("Chaney et al") who are the named inventors and are captioned in the present brief.

## II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Applicants, applicants' legal representative, and the above-identified assignee are unaware of other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the present appeal.

## III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 2-8, 10, 12-16, 18-42, and 53-78 are canceled. Claims 1, 9, 11, 17, and 43-52 are withdrawn. Claim 83 was never entered. Claims 79-82 and 84-102 are pending. Claims 79 and 98 are independent. Claims 79-82 and 84-102 were rejected. Applicants appeal the rejection of each of Claims 79-82 and 84-102.

## IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

A full set of claims as currently entered is attached in Appendix A. After the Final Rejection dated November 7, 2006, Claims 96-97 were amended on January 8, 2007 to correct an informality. No other amendments were filed subsequent to final rejection.

## V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

### A. Claim 79 and 98

Independent Claim 79 finds general support in the specification in at least Figs. 1a and 2, and in the description on pages 18-19. In specific, the recitations of Claim 79 find support in the specification at least as follows.

A method for managing metadata of content files using an electronic device, the method comprising:

- obtaining from a persistent metadata database, metadata for the content files; (**page 7, lines 11-13; see also pages 18-19**)

- displaying on a display of the electronic device (**page 7 lines 12-13**), a first column having a plurality of rows for track names corresponding to a plurality of content files (**Fig. 1a**); and

- displaying on a display of the electronic device (**Fig. 1a**), at least one of:

  - a second column having a plurality of rows for artist names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names (**Fig. 1a**),

  - a third column having a plurality of rows for album names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names (**Fig. 1a**), and

  - a fourth column having a plurality of rows for genre names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names (**Fig. 1a**).

Claim 98 recites similar elements, omitting references to “rows” in the display of the electronic device, and adding the element, “modifying at least one of a track name, artist name, genre and album name as metadata of a content file in said persistent database,” which finds support at least at page 7 lines 24-27.

Thus, pending Claims 79 and 98 recite a method of managing metadata in a unique manner that is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record. In this context, “metadata” refers to information about a content file. For example, metadata for an audio content file may include the artist or speaker name, album name, genre, and the like. Concisely put, Claims 79 and 98 are directed towards managing metadata for content files using a columnar display.

#### B. Claim 82

Claim 82 depends from independent claim 79 and include all of the pertinent recitations discussed above. Claim 82 further recites, “wherein said persistent database is an object-oriented database,” which finds support in the specification on page 20 lines 24-27.

#### C. Claims 87-88

Claims 87-88 depend from independent claim 79 and include all of the pertinent recitations discussed above. Claim 87 further recites, “wherein at least one column of said

track names, artist names, album names, and genre names has a blank entry.” Claim 88 depends from Claim 87, further reciting, “wherein said blank entry is saved as a named entry.” Claims 87-88 find support in the specification in Table 4 on page 19.

D. Claims 91 and 99

Claims 91 and 99 depend from independent claim 79 and 98, respectively, and include all of the pertinent recitations discussed above. Claims 91 and 99 further recite, “wherein the method comprises receiving a new metadata value for a metafield of a metadata record corresponding to a displayed track name, and in response to receiving the new metadata value, propagating the new metadata value to the corresponding metafield of each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre.” Claims 91 and 99 find support in the specification in Figure 9, particularly states 910 and 930, as described on page 25 lines 21-31.

VI. GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

The issues in this appeal are as follows:

1. Whether Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02 are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,959,627 to Duwaer et al. (hereinafter “*Duwaer*”), wherein *Duwaer* does not disclose displaying metadata in a columnar display, as claimed in Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02.
2. Whether Claim 82 is patentable over *Duwaer*, wherein *Duwaer* does not disclose a object-oriented database, as claimed in Claim 82.
3. Whether Claim 88 is patentable over *Duwaer*, wherein *Duwaer* does not disclose a saving a blank entry as a named entry, as claimed in Claim 88.
4. Whether Claims 91 and 99 are patentable over *Duwaer*, wherein *Duwaer* does not disclose propagating a new metadata value, as claimed in Claims 91 and 99.

## VII. ARGUMENT

**Issue 1: Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02 are patentable over *Duwaer* at least because *Duwaer* does not disclose displaying metadata in a columnar display, as claimed in Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02.**

Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Duwaer*. Under § 102, “A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” Manual of Patent Examining Procedure § 2131 (*quoting Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)).

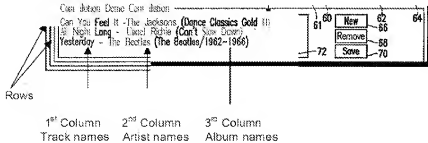
Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 79-82 and 84-102 are patentable over *Duwaer* at least because *Duwaer* does not disclose displaying metadata in a columnar display, as claimed in Claims 79-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-98, and 100-02.

Independent Claim 79 reads as follows.

A method for managing metadata of content files using an electronic device, the method comprising:  
    obtaining from a persistent metadata database, metadata for the content files;  
    displaying on a display of the electronic device, a first **column** having a plurality of rows for track names corresponding to a plurality of content files; and  
    displaying on a display of the electronic device, at least one of:  
        a second **column** having a plurality of rows for artist names **corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names**,  
        a third **column** having a plurality of rows for album names **corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names**, and  
        a fourth **column** having a plurality of rows for genre names **corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names**.

(emphasis added). Independent Claim 98 recites similar language in pertinent part. Claims 80-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-97, and 100-02 depend from independent Claim 79 or 98 and therefore include all limitations contained Claim 79 or 98.

Both the Office Action dated November 7, 2006 (hereinafter “Final Office Action”), and the Advisory Action dated June 20, 2007 (hereinafter “Advisory Action”) assert that *Duwaer* Fig. 5, field 72 discloses metadata displayed in columns, as claimed in Claims 79 and 98. The Final Office Action helpfully explained its reasoning by adding extra arrows and labels to Fig. 5:



However, Applicants respectfully submit that according to the cited figure, *Duwaer* discloses merely that metadata may be displayed in delimited **rows**. It was therefore clear error for the Final Office Action to assert that *Duwaer* discloses metadata displayed in distinct columns as claimed in Claims 79 and 98.

The Application does not define the term “column” in a special way, so the “columns” that are claimed in Claims 79 and 98 adhere to the common definition of that term. According to the New Oxford American Dictionary, 2nd Ed., a “column,” in this context, is “a **vertical arrangement** of figures or other information.” For example the following information is displayed in columns, as are claimed in Claims 79 and 98:

First Name	Last Name	Nickname	Pet’s Name	Spouse’s Name
Joe	Blow		Henry	Marge
Ignatious	Herman	Nate		Betty
Susan	Bell		Kelly	

### Example 1

The columnar display makes it very easy to identify whether each of the listed names is the first, last, or nick-name of a person, or whether it belongs to an individual’s pet or spouse. Such identification is easily performed because like pieces of data are **aligned** vertically: all of the pet names are roughly the same distance from at least one edge of the page, all of the spouse names are roughly the same distance from at least one edge of the page, and those



distances are such that the pet names do not spill over into the space occupied by spouse names, and visa versa.

Without such a **vertical alignment**, it becomes vastly more difficult to make any sense of the data thus presented. For example, in Example 2, below, the same information as in Example 1 is presented without vertical alignment. As a result, it is extremely difficult, if not impossible to tell whether, for example, “Kelly” in the third row is a nickname, a pet name, or a spouse name:

First Name	Last Name	Nickname	Pet’s Name	Spouse’s Name
Joe	Blow	Henry	Marge	
Ignatious		Herman	Nate	Betty
Susan	Bell	Kelly		

### Example 2

What *Duwaer* teaches, data displayed in delimited rows, cannot be said to anticipate the columnar display as claimed in Claims 79 and 98. The example data, when organized according to the teachings of *Duwaer*, is almost as difficult to interpret as the non-vertically-aligned display in Example 2:

Joe - Blow - -Henry - Marge
Ignatious - Herman - Nate - - Betty
Susan - Bell - - Kelly - Jim

### Example 3

In sum, unless data is vertically aligned, vertically arranged, and/or vertically divided, it is clear error to assert that such data is displayed in columns, as claimed in Claims 79 and 98.

Furthermore, *Duwaer* fails to teach listing a plurality of track names in rows **corresponding with at least one column** for album names, artist names and/or genre names. On the contrary, Figure 5 of *Duwaer* merely teaches an interface for locating a song to add to a compilation. There is no row and column correspondence between the displays of tracks in *Duwaer* and the artist names, album names and/or genre names displayed by *Duwaer*. Even the set of rows shown in element 72 of *Duwaer’s* Figure 5 merely teaches at most a single column, with no correspondence to artist names, album names and/or genre names. In fact, *Duwaer* has no teaching of genres listed in the single column (“field 72”) of Figure 5. Indeed,

at no point does *Duwaer* teach multiple columns of any kind, except as completely separate fields with no correspondence. The assertion that including multiple items in a row is equivalent to teaching columns is clearly erroneous as it applies to *Duwaer*.

For at least the reasons just discussed, Applicants respectfully submit that it was clear error and without basis for the Final Office Action and the Advisory Action to assert that *Duwaer* teaches metadata displayed in a first and at least one of a second, third, and fourth **columns**, as claimed in Claims 79 and 98. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 79 and 98 are patentable over *Duwaer*. Applicants further respectfully submit that Claims 80-81, 84-87, 89-90, 92-97, and 100-02 are allowable at least by dependency.

**Issue 2: Claim 82 is patentable over *Duwaer* at least because *Duwaer* does not disclose a object-oriented database, as claimed in Claim 82.**

Claim 82 depends from independent Claim 79, as discussed above. Claim 82 adds an additional element, namely “wherein said persistent database is an **object-oriented database**.” The Advisory Action asserts that *Duwaer* anticipates Claim 82 because in Fig. 5, “*Duwaer* clearly teaches data object stored in table comprises rows and columns.” However, even accepting for the sake of argument that the Advisory Action’s assertion is correct, *Duwaer* suggests merely that data is stored in **rows and columns**, as in a simple spreadsheet.

Claim 82, by contrast, claims that the persistent database in which metadata is stored is an “**object-oriented database**.” The Application does not define that term in a special way, so the “object-oriented database” that is claimed in Claim 82 adheres to the common definition of that term. In an influential paper, “The Object-Oriented Database Manifesto,” (available at <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/People/clamen/OODBMS/Manifesto/htManifesto/Manifesto.html>) Malcolm Atkinson et al. define an object-oriented database as follows:

An object-oriented database system must satisfy two criteria: it should be a DBMS, and it should be an object-oriented system.... The first criterion translates into five features: persistence, secondary storage management, concurrency, recovery and an ad hoc query facility. The second one translates into eight features: complex objects, object identity, encapsulation, types or classes, inheritance, overriding combined with late binding, extensibility and computational completeness.

Thus, even if *Duwaer* discloses that data is stored in rows and columns, *Duwaer* does not teach (or even suggest) that metadata is stored in a database that is object-oriented, that exhibits complex objects or object identity, or any of the other features that define an “object-oriented database,” as claimed in Claim 82. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 82 is patentable over *Duwaer*.

**Issue 3: Claim 88 is patentable over *Duwaer* at least because *Duwaer* does not disclose a saving a blank entry as a named entry, as claimed in Claim 88.**

Claim 87 depends from Claim 79 and recites that “at least one column of said track names, artist names, album names, and genre names has a **blank entry**.” Claim 88 depends from Claim 87, further reciting that “said blank entry is **saved as a named entry**.” In the Advisory Action, *Duwaer* was said to anticipate Claim 88 based on *Duwaer*’s disclosure at Col. 3 lines 10-25, which discusses Fig. 3, a “track information tab.” However, *Duwaer* discloses at Col. 3 lines 15-16 merely that “[o]ther fields may or may not be left empty.”

Applicants were unable to find any teaching within *Duwaer*, let alone the cited section, that “said blank entry is **saved as a named entry**.” For example, as illustrated in Table 4 on page 19 of the application, reproduced below, a blank entry may be represented in the stored metadata as a “named entry” (e.g., “<blank>”). By contrast, *Duwaer* discloses merely that some “fields may or may not be left empty,” not that an empty field may be saved as a named entry, as claimed in Claim 88.

FIELD	DATA
Track Name	Alison
Artist Name	Everything But ...
Track Genre	Rock
Album Name	Acoustic
Preference	Very Good
Situation	Dinner
Tempo	Moderate
Lyrics	<blank>
CD Track #	04
Mood	Mellow
Year	2000
Comments	<blank>
Cover Art	<blank>

TABLE 4

Accordingly, as *Duwaer* fails to teach a saving a blank element in a row as a named entry, Applicants respectfully submit that *Duwaer* does not anticipate Claim 88. For this reason, in addition to those already noted above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 88 is in condition for allowance.

**Issue 4: Claims 91 and 99 are patentable over *Duwaer* at least because *Duwaer* does not disclose propagating a new metadata value, as claimed in Claims 91 and 99.**

Claim 91 recites that "... in response to receiving [a] new metadata value, **propagating** the new metadata value to the corresponding metafield of **each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre.**" The Advisory Action clearly erred in asserting that *Duwaer* teaches that a new metadata value is **propagated** to each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre. In support of this assertion, the Advisory Action argues that "*Duwaer* teaches at Fig. 3 a user interface for adding or modifying metadata in to selected songs, these changes will in turn reflect in the rows displayed in Fig. 5."

Analyzing the teachings of *Duwaer* in relation to Figs. 3 and 5, it is clear that *Duwaer* suggests merely that when a single record is edited using the interface of Fig. 3, those changes to that one single record will be displayed in the interface of Fig. 5. In other words,

*Duwaer* teaches merely that metadata for **one single track** can be edited in the interface of Fig. 3. *See Duwaer* Col. 2 line 64-Col. 3 line 1 (“Field 140... highlights **one** [of the tracks selected in Fig. 2] for further specifying.” (emphasis added)). The Advisory Action asserts that the edited metadata values for that one single track will then be displayed in Field 72 of the interface of Fig. 5.

Even assuming for the sake of argument that this assertion is correct, *Duwaer* still fails to teach what is claimed in Claim 91. Specifically, *Duwaer* never discloses that when metadata for one record is edited in the interface of Fig. 3, those changes are **propagated** to the corresponding metafields of any other record, let alone that they are propagated to **each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre**, as claimed in Claim 91. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 91 is patentable over *Duwaer*. Claim 99 recites similar elements and is allowable by similar reasoning.

### VIII. SUMMARY

For at least the reasons discussed above, *Duwaer* cannot be said to anticipate Claims 79-82 and 84-102. Applicants therefore submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early and favorable action allowing all of the pending claims and passing this application to issue is respectfully requested.

We believe the appropriate fees accompany this transmission. If, however, insufficient fee payment or fee overpayment occurs, the amount may be withdrawn or deposited from/to Axios Law Group's deposit account. The deposit account number is 50-4051.

Respectfully submitted,  
AXIOS LAW GROUP

Date: September 5, 2008

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## IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX A

1. (Withdrawn) A method for managing metadata of audio or video content files, the method comprising:

storing a plurality of metadata for a plurality of metadata fields of a plurality of metadata records for a plurality of corresponding audio or video content files, the metadata records being variable in length having variable number of metadata fields;

associating a first subset of the metadata fields with a first display component set; associating a second subset of the metadata fields with a second display component set; associating a third subset of the metadata fields with a third display component set;

associating a fourth subset of the metadata fields with a first category property set for a first genre of the audio or video content files, the fourth subset including the first and second subsets;

associating a fifth subset of the metadata fields with a second category property set for a second genre of the audio or video content files, the fifth subset including the first and third subsets;

rendering a first display comprising a first plurality of metadata of a first metadata record corresponding to a first audio or video content file of the first genre based at least in part on the fourth subset of metadata fields associated with the first category property set, and in accordance with a first display layout comprising the first and second display component sets; and

rendering a second display comprising a second plurality of metadata of a second metadata record corresponding to a second audio or video content file of the second genre based at least in part on the fifth subset of metadata fields associated with the second category property set, and in accordance with a second display component layout comprising the first and third display component sets.

2-8. (Canceled)

9. (Withdrawn) A method for managing metadata of audio or video content files, the method comprising:

- associating a set of metadata fields with a category property set for a genre of audio or video content files having corresponding metadata records, each of the corresponding metadata records having a plurality of metadata fields including the set of the metadata fields to be associated with the category property set;

- receiving a new value for a first of the set of metadata fields of a first of the metadata records corresponding to a first of the audio or video content files of the genre; and

- assigning the new value to the first metadata field of the first metadata record as well as the first metadata field of each other metadata record corresponding to the other audio or video content files of the genre.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for managing metadata of audio or video content files, the method comprising:

- receiving a new value for a metadata field of a metadata record corresponding to an audio or video content file of a genre of audio or video content files; and

- assigning the new value to the metadata field of the metadata record corresponding to the audio or video content file, as well as each corresponding metadata field of each other metadata record corresponding to the other audio or video content files of the genre.

12-16. (Canceled)

17. (Withdrawn) A metadata editor system for organizing and allowing access to metadata of audio or video content files, the metadata editor system comprising:

- a metadata database configured to store metadata fields, metadata of metadata records having the metadata fields, display component sets having selected metadata fields, category property sets having selected metadata fields and associated with corresponding genres of audio or video content files; and

- a graphical user interface display module configured to selectively display metadata of metadata records of audio or video content files of various genres, using display layouts comprising selected combinations of the display component



sets, and to selectively assign metadata values to metadata fields of metadata records corresponding to audio or video content files of a genre, based on metadata values provided for metafields of individual metadata records corresponding to audio or video content files of the genre.

18-42. (Canceled)

43. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving at least one indication to perform one or more of said associating.

44. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 43, wherein said receiving comprises receiving one or more of the at least one indication from a user.

45. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises at least one of

adding one of either said first, said second, said third, said fourth, or said fifth subset of metadata fields to a plurality of existing metadata fields; adding either said first, said second or said third display component set to a plurality of existing display component sets; and

adding either said first or said second category property set to a plurality of existing category property sets.

46. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 45, wherein the method further comprises receiving at least one indication to perform at least one of said adding.

47. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 46, wherein said receiving comprises receiving one or more of the at least one indication from a user.

48. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 1, wherein the method further comprises receiving a new value for one of the rendered first and second subsets of metafields of the first metadata record corresponding to the first audio or video content file of the first genre; and

assigning the new value to the corresponding metadata field of the first metadata record corresponding to the first audio or video content file of the first genre.

49. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the receiving of a new value comprises receiving the new value from a user.

50. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 48, wherein the method further comprises assigning the new value to the corresponding metadata field of each other metadata record of the other audio or video content files of the first genre.

51. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 50, wherein the method further comprises receiving an indication to perform the assigning to the corresponding metadata field of each other metadata record of the other audio or video content files of the first genre.

52. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 51, wherein the receiving of an indication comprises receiving the indication from a user.

53. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the method further comprises receiving at least one of  
an indication to perform said associating, the new value, and  
an indication to perform said assigning to the corresponding metadata field of each other metadata record of the audio or video content files of the genre.

54. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 53, wherein said receiving comprises receiving one or more of the at least one from a user.

55. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 9, wherein the method further comprises at least one of  
adding one or more of the subset of metadata fields to a plurality of existing metadata fields; and  
adding the category property set to a plurality of existing category property sets.

56. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 55, wherein the method further comprises receiving at least one indication to perform at least one of said adding.

57. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 56, wherein said receiving comprises receiving one or more of the at least one indication from a user.

58. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 11, wherein the method further comprises

receiving at least one of the new value, and  
an indication to perform said assigning to the corresponding metadata field of each  
other metadata record corresponding the other audio or video content files of the genre.

59. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 58, wherein said receiving comprises receiving one or more of the at least one from a user.

60. (Withdrawn) The metadata editor system of Claim 17, wherein the display component sets comprise a display component set used to display both metadata records corresponding to audio as well as video content files.

61. (Withdrawn) The metadata editor system of Claim 17, wherein the graphical user interface is further adapted to facilitate at least one of  
adding a metadata field to a plurality of existing metadata fields;  
adding a display component set to a plurality of existing display component sets;  
adding a category property set to a plurality of existing category property sets; and  
assigning a received value for a metadata field of the metadata field record  
corresponding to an audio or video content file of a genre to the corresponding metadata field of each other metadata record of the audio or video content files of the genre.

62. (Withdrawn) The metadata editor system of Claim 61, wherein the graphical user interface is further adapted to facilitate receiving from a user, at least one indication to perform at least one of said adding and assigning.

63-78. (Canceled)

79. (Previously Presented) A method for managing metadata of content files using an electronic device, the method comprising:

obtaining from a persistent metadata database, metadata for the content files;  
displaying on a display of the electronic device, a first column having a plurality of rows for track names corresponding to a plurality of content files; and  
displaying on a display of the electronic device, at least one of:  
a second column having a plurality of rows for artist names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names,

a third column having a plurality of rows for album names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names, and

a fourth column having a plurality of rows for genre names corresponding to the plurality of rows for track names.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database is a relational database.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database is a semi-relational database.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database is an object-oriented database.

83. (Not Entered).

84. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database is a tabular database.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database is queryable.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said persistent database persists separately from the content files.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein at least one column of said track names, artist names, album names, and genre names has a blank entry.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 87 wherein said blank entry is saved as a named entry.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79 wherein said track names correspond to a content file associated with at least one of a genre, artist and album.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, further comprising receiving an indication of a selection of a genre of content files, and displaying of a column having a plurality of rows for track names corresponding to the plurality of content files of a genre in response to receiving the indication, the plurality of content files being content files of the selected genre.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the method comprises receiving a new metadata value for a metafield of a metadata record corresponding to a displayed track name, and in response to receiving the new metadata value, propagating the new metadata value to the corresponding metafield of each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the method further comprises receiving a selection of one of the displayed track names, and in response to receiving the selection, rendering the content of the content file corresponding to the selected displayed track name.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 89, wherein the displaying of said second column of a plurality of rows for artist names or said third column of a plurality of rows for album names, is simultaneous with the display of said first column having a plurality of rows for track names corresponding to a plurality of content files of a genre.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79, further comprising storing said persistent database on a computer readable medium.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 79, further comprising obtaining an indication from an input device to change at least one metadata value in said persistent database and automatically storing said indicated change in said persistent database.

96. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing computer executable instructions for performing the method of any of Claims 79-82 and 84-95.

97. (Previously Presented) An apparatus having a processor and a memory containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of any of Claims 79, 95, 79-82, and 84-95 when executed by said processor.

98. (Previously Presented) A method for managing metadata of content files using an electronic device, the method comprising:

- obtaining from a persistent database, metadata for content files;
- displaying on a display of the electronic device, a first column having a plurality of track names corresponding to a plurality of content files;
- displaying on a display of the electronic device, at least one of:
  - a second column having a plurality of artist names corresponding to said track names,
  - a third column having a plurality of album names corresponding to said track names, and
  - a fourth column having a plurality of genre names corresponding to said track names; and
- modifying at least one of a track name, artist name, genre and album name as metadata of a content file in said persistent database.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 98, wherein the method comprises receiving a new metadata value for a metafield of a metadata record corresponding to a displayed track name, and in response to receiving the new metadata value, propagating the new metadata value to the corresponding metafield of each corresponding metadata record for the content files of the selected genre.

100. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium containing computer executable instructions for performing the method of any of Claims 98-99.

101. (Previously Presented) An apparatus having a processor and a memory containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method of any of Claims 98-99 when executed by said processor.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 98, further comprising obtaining an indication from an input device to change at least one metadata value in said persistent database and automatically storing said indicated change in said persistent database.

X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE.

XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE.